GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:743
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
WATER CRISIS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the World Bank in its recent report has stated that `India`s large water infrastructure is crumbling` as reported in the Statesman dated December 17, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the existing water management practices require immediate changes in view of the impending water crisis; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAVAN YADAV)

(a) to (c) The news item appearing in the Statesman dated December 17, 2G06 refers to the report titled `India`s Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future` brought out by the World Bank in 2005 which inter-alia presents its authors` view points about the status of India`s large water infrastructure alongwith certain suggestions. The report in genera! discusses various aspects of water resources development and management in India and broadly covers the issues related to:
i. adjusting to the needs of a changing India;
ii. adjusting to scarcity and greater variability;
iii. dealing with growing conflicts;
iv. maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure;
v. building infrastructure in under-served areas and for under-served public purposes;
vi. making the transition from development to management and development;
vii. revitalizing the machinery of government to deal with the turbulent water future ; and
viii. charting a prioritized, sequenced, pragmatic path for making improvements.

Water being a state subject, the schemes for development and management of water resources are taken up by the State Governments. Several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices, etc. State Government conceive, plan and implement major, medium and minor schemes for utilisation of water resources. Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes / programmes. Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water.

The reform processes required to be undertaken in the area of water sector are duly emphasized in the National Water Policy and these are to be implemented with due consideration to the socio-economic scenario prevailing in the country.